

# MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn Al 36830

SEPTEMBER 11-17

VOL. 2, NO. 12

"I'VE GOT TO LOOK AFTER THE WHOLE STATION"  
By STEVE BEVERLY/MATWATCH Editor

If Turner Broadcasting personnel have learned one thing about those of us who like wrestling, we don't hesitate to say what we think. Occasionally, someone responds in an intelligent, disciplined fashion, even if you don't agree with the viewpoint.

In last week's MATWATCH, we gave TBS a resounding BOO for its 15-minute pre-emption of WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING to compensate for a runover of college football two hours earlier. We stand by it. Additionally, our analysis in this space last week of ratings trends for the major TV wrestling shows brought a response from TBS program executive Jeff Carr, who happens to be a friend of mine with whom I don't always dance to the same mental beat.

Jeff acknowledges that wrestling fans won't like this next comment but says it goes with his territory. "Your readers are looking at things from only one perspective ---wrestling---and that's their prerogative," says Carr. "But I have to look at the entire nature of the SuperStation when we make a decision as we did last Saturday (Sept. 2)." Through the fall, TBS has committed to two-hour movies, mostly westerns, as lead-ins to WCW because of their comparable demographic profiles. "I know wrestling fans find this hard to believe but our research indicates that of all the programming we offer, movies are our most popular and the one area viewers LEAST want tampered with. With a live Braves commitment at 7:05, we made a tough decision to go with the movie and join WCW in progress," said Carr. "Chances are, it may not happen again for the rest of the season."

I posed to Jeff whether the near-record low 1.5 rating for WCW could be attributed to the show not being at its scheduled 6 p.m. start time with no visual streamer to alert fans. "Possibly," he said. "But I discount the argument that we don't have a priority with wrestling. It is one of many priorities at TBS. Believe me, everybody gets mad at these decisions at one time or another. Sports gets mad if they don't get what they feel is a good time slot for a show, other people get angry if sports runovers bump a movie, wrestling fans get upset if their show starts late. So we have to deal with a broad range of interests."

Carr also challenged our analysis of WCW's ratings drop being partially due to constant time shifts in the spring. "With the exception of last December, the ratings began going down from August of '88," Carr told us. "It's been a long process for the ratings to slide and it will take an equally long time to get them back where they were."

As a viewer as well as journalist, however, I'll tell you the condensed version of what I told Jeff: he's right that we fans are a special interest group and he does have the bigger picture to consider. But TBS airs more than 30



flicks a week. Wrestling has only three cracks. Isn't there room to avoid what happened on the 2nd? And if not, at least aren't we entitled to at least a visual disclaimer during the movie as to the approximate start time of WCW? Movies may draw larger audiences and I like them, too. But we MATWATCHers are a loyal, vocal and unforgiving lot. If the NWA is ultimately to rebound to past heights, its TV offerings need all the support they can get. But I appreciate Jeff sharing his perspective.

## THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

TITAN, TRUMP TRY TO TEAM  
FOR STONES PPV CONCERT

LOS ANGELES----Titan Sports, in an effort to land the December pay-per-view rights to a Rolling Stones concert, is teaming with Donald Trump to pitch a package deal for the show.

In the Sept. 7 edition of THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER, Titan's Jim Troy said Trump is proposing the show for his Atlantic City resort as a joint venture with Titan, similar to the past two WRESTLEMANIAS.

Troy was quoted as saying the Stones PPV could be an all-time recordbreaker but an industry insider discounted that.

In the same story, Troy claimed a \$16 million gross for the WWF from its SUMMER SLAM pay show, based on reports from half of the country.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES (Continued)

ESPN: NO PLANS TO ADD  
NEW WRESTLING SERIES

BRISTOL CT ---- ESPN, which has carried AWA wrestling for more than four years, is hearing strong proposals from Calgary Stampede wrestling for a slot on the all-sports cable network.

But sources close to the situation have told MATWATCH the talks are nothing more than informal and that ESPN is not likely to add a new wrestling show, even if the AWA's new effort at "team" wrestling fails.

The Canadian promotion has never had a U.S. cable slot. On the Sept. 7 ESPN Tenth Anniversary Special, sportscaster Chris Ber-man and SPORTSLOOK's Roy Firestone acknowledged the AWA as part of the retrospective.

TBS: NAME OUR  
NOVEMBER CLASH

ATLANTA ---- Turner Broadcasting is turning to MATWATCH readers for help in naming its November NWA CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS IX.

TBS program executive Jeff Carr is soliciting viewer suggestions for the subtitle of the Nov. 15 special. Past CLASH programs have included the names SEASON'S BEATINGS, GUTS AND GLORY, RAGIN' CAJUN CLASH, and MIAMI MAYHEM. Carr suggests viewers consider the season of the year, the CLASH location (yet to be decided) and a wrestling theme when sending suggestions.

Entries can be sent to JEFF CARR, WTBS, ONE CNN CENTER, BOX 105366, ATLANTA GA 30348-5366. If a viewer's title is selected, that person will receive four free issues of MAT-WATCH.

RATINGS RAP: CABLE

(Week Ending Sept. 10)	Rtg	Shr	Homes
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 2/10)	2.7	6.9	1.34 mil.
WWF ALL-AM. (USA 2/10)	2.7	8.3	1.30 mil.
NWA WORLD CH. (TBS 2/9)	1.5	3.9	742,500
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 2/8)	1.3	2.4	643,500
NWA POWER (R) (TBS 2/9)	0.5	4.6	298,000

(ANALYSIS: Both MAIN EVENT and ALL-AMERICAN posted excellent numbers for Labor Day weekend, usually a low viewing period. NME scored its all-time high share, with the first half-hour posting a 7.2% share. The "in progress" start

of WCW had to hurt its numbers, coupled with it not being one of the better NWA offerings. Despite a hot Sting-Muta match, POWER was hampered by a 1.1 lead-in from the Braves, who just die in TBS ratings during September.

I REMEMBER: The Pro & Mario Galento  
vs. The Outlaw & Seiji Sakaguchi

FEBRUARY 1968 ---- In a sense, this was a mirror image of the scenario of last week's I REMEMBER, with a different twist. Two months after turning on El Mongol, Dandy Jack Crawford was destroyed in a wire fence match against El at the Atlanta City Auditorium. After a five-month hiatus, Crawford returned with a supposed new leaf. He told Georgia fans he "had changed" and even showed up to manage (as a babyface) the English star, The Outlaw (a British version of Tim Woods' Mr. Wrestling).

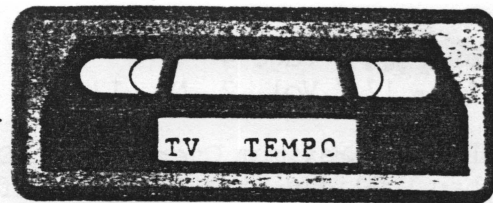
Veteran referee and color commentator Leo Garibaldi didn't buy it a bit and even angered fans when he sided with the equally babyface Georgia star, The Professional (Doug Gilbert), against Crawford. After a series of matches with Garibaldi & the Pro vs. the Outlaw & Jack, a TV showdown was setup with Gilbert and the returning Mario Galento against the Outlaw and Japanese newcomer Seiji Sakaguchi.

This would turn out to be one of the last big matches of Galento's career. Mostly a brawl for six minutes, Sakaguchi began to get the upper hand on the old veteran when Outlaw tagged off a Galento hangman. Using a series of kendo moves, Sakaguchi appeared to have Mario doomed when he re-tagged the Outlaw. As Seiji held Galento, the Outlaw caromed off the ropes and his waiting knee crashed into Sakaguchi as Galento slid away. Mario fell off the ropes onto Seiji for the pin as the Outlaw looked on with horror. The Pro & Galento celebrated and left.

Outlaw and Sakaguchi looked at each other with distrust but appeared to be approaching a settlement when Crawford sneaked from behind and clobbered the Outlaw with his cane and he and Sakaguchi doubleteamed their former ally until he rolled away on his own.

But this turn was not nearly as effective as the El Mongol angle for two reasons: (1) Sakaguchi was not an established star so not as much heat was on this one; and (2) Garibaldi nearly ruined it at the mike with Ed Capral when he repeatedly chortled I told you sos. Ed, the night Leo walked off BIG TIME WRESTLING when you asked if it wasn't true that "you are not the most popular of referees in Georgia?" you did us a major favor. I wish you'd asked the same question that night. Garibaldi had a harder time gaining babyface acceptance than Vincent Young.





SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWER-SLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor.

(SCW) - Bobby Bennett d. Kevin Dillinger; S. TAG TITLE: Mr. Atlanta/Mike Golden d. Ga. Power; Chic Donovan wins DQ over Golden; Brad Armstrong/Bullet d. Invader/Steve Bennett; Joel Deaton vs. David Sammartino ends in melee. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(CWA) - Eddie Marlin reclaims promoter role; CWA TAG-TITLE: Jerry Lawler/Jeff Jarrett win DQ over Wildside (still champs); Texas Dirt (Dutch Mantel) wins DQ over Spike Huber; Master of Pain d. Donnie Kelly; Blackbirds d. Scott Hall/Chris Frazier; Jarrett/Jason d. Rough & Ready. DRAW-PLUS.

(ACW) - [REPLAYS]: David Isley d. Jack Jackson; Colt Steel d. Gene Ligon; Ricky Nelson Darrin Stephens; Ivan Koloff d. Rusty Riddle; Doug Sommers d. Tommy Angel; Tai vs. Spike ends in progress. BOMB.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Sid Vicious d. Joe Druz; Road Warriors d. Bill Ford/Angel; Steiners d. Trent Knight/Steel; Ric Flair d. Bill Irwin; Freebirds d. Nelson/Riddle. REPLAY: Sting-Slater angle. RESTHOLD. [NWA PRO]: Road Warriors d. Angel/Bounty Hunter; SST d. Dong Sartain/John Montgomery; Dr. Death d. Ligon; Tommy Rich d. Irwin; Steiners d. Cruz/Lee Scott. FEATURES: Sting-Slater; Rick's "night date" w. Robin Green. PEDICINO'S NOSE: Review of Sting-Muta. RESTHOLD.

(USWA) - J.J. Funk d. Sheik Braddock; REPLAY: Tojo/Chu'i-Toni Adams angle; LOSER LEAVE USWA: Eric Embry d. Cactus Jack Manson in 12 seconds; VIDEO: Embry ("Wind Beneath My Wings"); ANGLE: Akbar/Gary Young abandon Manson; FEATURE: Jerry Lawler blasts "company champs." Al Perez/Gary Young d. Billy Travis/Matt Borne when Young uses knuckles on Travis. DRAW-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Jimmy Snuka d. Jake Milliman; Dino Bravo d. Lou Spiccoli; Rick Martel d. Tim Horner; Dusty Rhodes d. Tom Stone; Hillbilly Jim d. Pete Catchem; Tully & Arn d. Mark Young/Jim Evans; Other winners: Sheepwackers. RESTHOLD. [SUPERSTARS]: Brutus Beefcake d. Chuck Campbell; REPLAY: Andre jumps Ultimate Warrior; Barry Widowmaker d. Spiccoli; Demolition d. Milliman/Boris Zhukov; Bubba Bossman d. Bob Allen but Dusty Rhodes smashes Bubba again w. nightstick & chases Slick; Ted DiBiase d. Evans; BRO. LUV w. Roddy Piper, who pours toothpaste & shampoo all over Bruce and flosses his

teeth before Rick Rude PearlHarbors Roddy and throws mouthwash in Piper's face before applying a Rude Awakening & bashing Roddy w. Luv's pulpit. Roddy beats up all the agents; Hercules d. Darryl Nickel; Powers of Pain d. Dale Wolfe/Stone. DRAW....Piper-Rude angle was silly, heavy & good.

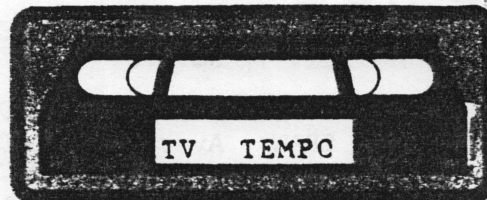
(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Jim Duggan d. Brooklyn Brawler; Powers of Pain d. Wolfe/Stone; Beefcake d. Campbell; Lanny Poffo d. Young; Bravo d. Spiccoli; Sheepwackers d. Nicholl/Knight; Rougeaus d. Evans/Denny Bergstrom; COLISEUM CORNER: DiBiase-Snuka; Martel d. Horner; Bossman d. Hercules but Herc chases Bubba & Slick & escapes handcuffs. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Brian Pillman d. Enforcer; Lex Luger d. Ranger Ross; Rich d. Bounty; 8-MAN: Road Warriors/Steiners d. SST/Freebirds when Scott sunset flips Michael Hayes. WNN: Gordon Solie forecasts Steiners tag title win at CLASH VIII. FUNK'S GRILL: Terry, Gary Hart & Slater bring out Sting & Flair "dolls;" WRESTLER OF WEEK - Muta. DRAW. [WCW]: Luger d. Angel; Sid Vicious d. Scott Hall; Ranger Ross d. Irwin; RECAP: Warriors-SST feud; Mike Rotunda d. Mike Awesome; RECAP: Flair/Sting vs. Funk/Muta saga w. clip of Muta's TV title win over Sting at Omni; FEATURE: Steiner's "night date"; Pillman d. Eddie Gilbert, even though Eddie's foot is beyond ropes; Freebirds d. Bob Cook/Rick Rider; Steiners d. Ford/Agent Steel; M Ex d. Scott/Tim Parker; DANGER ZONE: Paul E. w. Flair/Sting. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(ICW) - Mr. X (Baracarino) d. Eric Saphrasia; S&S Express d. Russian Brutes; Kendall Windham d. Tony Rumble; BATTLE ROYAL: Joe Savoldi wins when Kendall misses a leap from behind; ICW TITLE: Tony Atlas retains belt by DQ loss to Savoldi when Kendall Windham attacks & dressing rooms empty; Undertakers d. Chris Michaels/Kingpin. RESTHOLD-PLUS...good effort for ICW.

(FLORIDA) - Oliver Humperdink back as host; Jim Backlund d. Rock Hard Ric; Steve Keirn d. Masked Superstar; Terminator d. Mike Awesome; K. Windham d. Dennis Knight; Nick Busich d. Rick Rider; Tyree Pride d. Mike McClaskey. BOMB-PLUS.

(CWF) - Southern Boys d. RPM Davis/Lou Fabiano; Jimmy Golden/Brian Lee d. Danny Davis/Keith Hart; Barbarian Warrior d. Grant Jackson; REPLAYS: Lee/Golden CWF tag title win; Beauty & the Beast/Adrian & Linda Street angle. Wendell Cooley vs. Dennis Condrey ends in major brawl/pullapart w. Cooley bashing Condrey into juice job w. chair & CWF title belt. DRAW....for final brawl.



(STAMPEDE) - Maximum Overdrive d. Drago Zhivago/Ken Johnson; Jonathan Holliday wins DQ over Biff Wellington; Samurai Warriors d. Goldie Rogers/Kim Schau; Larry Cameron d. Steve Gillespie. BOMB-PLUS.

(AWA) - Destruction Crew d. Red Tyler/Jim Evans; Kokina d. The Nomad; Russian Brute d. Butler Stevens (Ox Baker manages Brute); Larry Zbyszko d. Jerry Lynn; Paul Diamond double countout vs. Col. DeBeers. BOMB-PLUS.

**LINE OF THE WEEK** - 1. Jim Cornette, PH: "Oklahoma's ranked this year: number 10 with the AP & number 3 with the FBI." 2. Paul E. Dangerously, NME: "Bobby Eaton ought to get Willie Nelson to put on another Live Aid benefit so he can feed his stinkin' Alabama family." 3. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "What a neck on that guy (Dusty) ....must be 23 inches!" 4. Roddy Piper & Vince McMahon, WWF: (RP, to Bro. Luv) "You know, you have this hair hanging out of your nose." (VM) "Just like you, Jesse." 5. Ventura, WWF: "The Powers of Pain could have a moonlighting job---they could be the East and West screens at the drive-in." 6. Jim Ross, WCW: "Battle of the Mikes (Rotunda & Awesome)---I have that every Sunday with Paul E. Dangerously." 7. Bob Caudle, NWA, on Robin Green: "You know what my wife would say? Get your eyeballs back in, Bob!" 8. Ross & Cornette, PH, on Robin: (JR) "I don't know what kind of heart she's got." (JC) "It's protected well." 9. Frank Dusek, USWA: "Like he says, Matt Borne is a maniac. He might be a manic depressive." 10. Marc Lowrance & Dusek, USWA: (ML) "I'd be a madman." (FD) "You'd be a madman? Chris Adams is a madman with a superkick."

11. Charlie Platt, CWF, to Downtown Bruno: "You can't come face-to-face with Ron Fuller. You can't even come up to his waist." 12. Ventura, WWF: "I was in Tampa for a Buc's game and the Swashbucklers (dance team) chased me right out of the stadium." 13. Ross, WCW: "Teddy Long's mouth is about 6-feet-4 across the middle." 14. Dusek, USWA, on Gary Young's copper hair: "Maybe we could get him to wrestle in a shower cap." 15. Hawk, WCW: "Chasing your blood (SST) will be like honey to a bear." 16. Ric Flair, WCW: "Sometimes, things are prearranged by our promotion people." 17. Bulldog Bob Brown & Ed Whalen, Stampede: (BBB) "Have you ever seen a smile on (Biff) Wellington's face?" (EW) "Yeah, the night he was beating the tar out of Bulldog Bob Brown." 18. Nick Bockwinkel, AWA: "The Ku Klux Klan is one group which blows off garbage they believe in. Larry Zbyszko is no different." 19. Ox Baker, AWA: "It takes a great man to kick someone while he's down."

**STRONGEST COMMENT** - Cornette & Ross, PH: (JC) "Pete Rose will play for the Atlanta Braves next season. (JR) "He's suspended for a year." (JC) "So? The Braves don't have anything to do with baseball."

**HEAVIEST LINE** - Cornette, PH: "Talk about space exploration. Voyager sent back the first photos of Neptune. Next week, after traveling a few more thousand miles, it will send back the first photos of the north side of Joe Pedicino's waistline."

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK** - 1. Skandor Akbar, USWA, to Dusek: "Did your Navy pension pay for that toupee?" 2. Caudle, NWA, on Robin: "How can you be unhappy with a gal like that?" 3. Platt, CWF: "Can you find Bruno a job as a football?"

**NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK** - 1. Pillsbury Doughboy (Teddy Long to Ross). 2. Sister Roddy (Bro. Luv to Piper).

**BEST PICTURES** - 1. NWA PRO, Steinerlock by Scott on Joe Cruz from 2nd rope. 2. WWF, Closeup of Bubba asking, "Whaddaya think, boys?" 3. USWA, Gary Young's red hair.

**BEST BRAWL** - Cooley vs. Condrey, CNF, one of the five best of the year.

**ANN CALVELLO AWARD** - Rhodes, WWF, for polkadot togs.

**ALL-CLICHE TEAM** - Ventura, WWF, for "Frying pan into the fire" and "talk is cheap."

**BLOOPER AWARDS** - 1. Bob Dow, ICW, for calling the Russian Brutes the Russian Bears. 2. Dow, ICW, for calling Kendall Windham "Kelvin Windham" four times.

**BOO AWARD** - ICW, for announcing Jamie West as having won the ICW women's title in 40 seconds. Trouble is, there was no former champ and the match was never held.

**TUBE TALK**: Oliver Humperdink returned as host of FCW Saturday. A live band was used to play the ring intro music and theme song....WORLD WIDE premiered in its Saturday slot on WPIX at 11 a.m., not the previously announced 9 a.m....ICW's 2-hour Labor Day spectacular wasn't great but good for their standards....On ACW, the old interviews adjacent to each rerun match were also used. Result: Nelson Royal turns from face to heel 4 times during the show....Title of STARRCADE '89: LORDS OF THE '90s....Maybe it's that Wahoo just doesn't liven it as a color man but WCW seemed lackluster from a crowd standpoint Saturday....That Pillman-Gilbert was the first chapter toward an Eddie turn.

Bill Tabb was on CWF in his fourth different identity, this one a masked black version of The Barbarian.... Have you seen anyone come along as fast as Scott Steiner? I'm continually amazed....Something nostalgic and poignant about having Gordon Solie back on WCW for his closing seg with Rossie....Jenny Medeck of St. Augustine wants all FCW viewers to write the Sunshine Network to get the show on that cable circuit....For deadline reasons, we will cover the NWA MAIN EVENT and its best lines one week late. But I can tell you last Sunday's show with Paul E. was one of the best ever....One gets the idea Piper-Rude will be a heated series....Finally, a sad note. Former wrestler Eduardo Perez, well-known to many Florida fans, passed away last Thursday in the Tampa area. Karl Gotch and Boris Malenko had visited him in his last days. His best success was as a team partner with Louie Tillet. FSB.

#### FALL BRAWL T-SHIRT SPECIAL

**REMINDER**: For the next subscriber to give TWO gift subscriptions of 7 issues or more, a free NWA FALL BRAWL T-shirt. Plus, your bonuses of 2 free MATWATCH issues for every 7-issue set gifted to a maximum of 13 freebies

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**SPECIAL NOTE**: To readers of ARENA REPORT, please be patient on your current issue. The grandmother of editor Ron Lemieux's wife passed away suddenly last week. Our condolences go to the family. Ron will get to your issue as soon as possible.



## YOU SAID IT!

Unfortunately, I'm having a difficult time remaining as interested in the sport as I was in the past. However, there have been some highlights this year, especially the return of Terry Funk and Ricky Steamboat to the NWA. I believe they are on the right track, in terms of talent, and they appear to be signing the right people to work for them. (But) Tommy Rich getting a push as a babyface is absurd. The glitches with the TV show also have to be straightened out. Their airing the wrong tape on TBS is inexcusable.

GARY ZIMAK  
MT. HOLLY NJ

Toronto, Ontario, especially is a potentially lucrative market for Turner. Flair could draw 17,000 people for the odd card as a tremendously popular babyface circa 1981-82, before Crockett ran down the area, before the McMahon takeover. As a staunch NWA fan, this could be a lot of fun!

JEFF ZINGER  
WOODSTOCK, ONT

T-B-YES? Not when they run a month-old rerun of WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING.

MARK CARLISLE  
TACOMA WA

Although I enjoy your publication, one grows weary of constant Vince-bashing...a la WEF! Titan's uncontested success deserves more respect than you care to give them, regardless of your attitude towards Vince and the WWF. The bottom line is Vince delivers what the public wants.

JOE SIRIANNI  
SARATOGA SPRINGS NY

(FSB: No argument with your last sentence and we made a decision 3 weeks ago to dump the WEF monicker. But read the COMINGS & GOINGS item about Vince's crew and FNN/SCORE and tell me they don't deserve some of it.)

Please consider dropping your WEF moniker of the WWF. Your point is well made (and taken by this grudgingly tolerant WWF hater) but each time I see the WEF usage...it feels

like I am being hit over the head with it....the point you make is certainly valid. However, its impact is lessened with the overkill of the WEF usage.

JEFF MULLINS  
SAN JOSE CA

While I applaud your editorial (on the Dusty Rhodes toilet skit---MATWATCH Vol. 2, No. 4), I feel it opens a "can of worms" about the business itself. Yes, Rhodes' common man spots are incredibly low grade humor...but are they really more offensive than anything else we take for granted in the WWF? In other words, is Dusty frolicking with feces any worse than Slick the prattling pimp?

We can accuse McMahon of stooping to the lowest common denominator to engender publicity but the business has done this for years...how many promotions currently have plot lines revolving around jingoism, racism and prejudiced or sexist heels (and sometimes faces)?....The WWF hasn't had a positive black role model since Rocky Johnson...while Vince is easily the worst offender in this category, intelligent role models are few and far between in all the promotions (NWA excluded)...if Vince and Dusty crossed over the line of poor taste, it was a pretty worthless line anyway.

PHIL GALLOWAY  
SAN DIEGO CA

I give SUMMER SLAM a THUMBS UP! This show was excellent. In my book, this was the second best PPV---the first, of course, was the NWA's May 7th. The announcing was excellent. Tony (Schiafone) gets my vote for announcer of the year. Jesse was also excellent.

The Warrior, I thought, had his best match of his career, thanks to Rude. What a match! Was it me, or did Zeus work/look better than Andre?

WALT MARSHALL  
MORRISVILLE PA

Your open letter to Ric Flair was right on target and I do believe Ric will make an excellent booker. It's nice to see the new (or 'new old') talent coming to the NWA. It's occurred to me that another veteran, namely Sgt. Slaughter, just might make a good one to make a return ....also, the ACW's Ken Shamrock might be worth bringing in. He's a handsome youngster.

JEFF FISHER  
LAKE TOXAWAY NC

# COMINGS & GOINGS

**NO DATE YET:** Well, at least not a site. Sentiment continues for The Omni for STARR-CADE '89. But the date has been moved to either Dec. 13 or 14, a Wednesday or Thursday, at night. A plan to move it to Dec. 7 in Hawaii for a Pearl Harbor theme was scuttled. Stay tuned.....

**HOT OMNI:** The Omni rocked Sept. 3 with more than 15,000, biggest NWA turnout of the year. Get this for an Oct. 8 OMNI card: Ric Flair vs. Terry Funk in an I QUIT match, Sting vs. Muta for the TV title with Gary Hart suspended in a cage, the first Road Warriors-Skyscrapers encounter, Lex Luger-Dr. Death for the U.S. title, Freebirds-Steiners for the NWA tag belts, Gilbert-Pillman, Rich-Norman, Dudes-Militia, Zenk-Irwin.

**FULTON'S FOLLY:** The New Fantastics (Bobby & Jackie Fulton) will be in the NWA in October. They'll likely work on the split shows.

**SCORE VS. VINCE:** Our friend, Broadway Danny Wolf of FNN/SCORE recently was all set for a Jimmy Hart interview at an L.A. WWF show when Titan agents nixed it. It had all been okayed and Danny had a crew there. When Danny protested, the Titanites said they didn't want to mess with "little cable outfits." Plus, they admonished Wolf not to refer to their product as "wrestling" but as "sports entertainment." And people wonder at our old WEF monicker.

**SLOWING DOWN:** Don't expect Hulk Hogan to work much more than weekends and TV tapings between now and year's end. Looks like Warrior-Andre, Dusty-Bossman, and Savage-Duggan will be carrying the load.

**NETWORKING:** ICW has gained a daytime slot on a Las Vegas indie opposite WWF SUPERSTARS, so don't look for big numbers there for Savoldi's group.

**SYNDICATION:** Ratings were not available this week because of the Labor Day holiday.

**KING'S COURT:** Sonny King in as a heel manager for FCW. I remarked naively to a colleague that I thought King was dead. My friend replied, "He is."

**PRE-EMPTING:** No POWER HOUR or NWA MAIN EVENT on TBS this weekend but the CLASH VIII repeat will be Sunday at 1:20 p.m., along with two episodes of WRESTLING'S GREAT-

EST HITS Sunday at 3:50 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. (EDT).

**DOCTOR'S NOT IN:** One credible report has Tom Prichard departing CWF after his stretcher job for Dennis Condrey. CWF sources have denied it. But MATWATCH has been told Prichard may be in line for another NWA shot. His earlier dispute was with the George Scott regime.

**WWF, EUROPEAN STYLE:** Titan is making another swing this fall to England and France with the Paris show likely to be taped again for USA in a three-hour format.

**HULK-SAN:** Seiji Sakaguchi meeting this week with Vince McMahon in effort to land Hogan for the Tokyo Dome show but don't expect it. Also, Antonio Inoki planning to tape a "team" wrestling show, not unlike the new AWA format, in Las Vegas for the international and possibly the U.S. market.

**SWITCHING SIDES:** NWA's Oct. 21 date in Milwaukee has been scratched in favor of Roanoke VA.

**BACK TO SCW:** John Michaels back to Southern as a babyface after his Georgia MWA group lasted a shorter time frame than old Magnum T.A. TV matches.

**CRASH TV:** ABC NEWS did a 3-minute show closer on AMERICAN GLADIATORS and ROLLERGAMES last Thursday for WORLD NEWS TONIGHT. The inevitable comparisons to wrestling were made. AG started last Saturday on 110 stations and ROLLER has 162 outlets.

**NEXT WEEK'S PROFILE:** PINFALL PROFILE returns next week with the first of a two-part tips piece on preparing for a career in wrestling broadcasting. You folks have requested it.

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